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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 December 1978

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your very prompt, thoughtful, and perceptive letter of 18 December 1978. You have contributed significantly to our progress toward the completion of a most onerous task.

Part of our problem is not knowing what we don't know. The destruction in 1973 of what were then believed to have been all of the records pertaining to behavior modification research leaves us without the facts we need to refute irresponsible allegations, or to confirm factual revelations, should we be so inclined. Information you have furnished helps to fill some of these voids, and we are grateful.

Unfortunately, some mystery still enshrouds the so-called safehouses, despite the very helpful facts you have furnished. During Congressional testimony several former CIA employees disclaimed knowledge of the purposes to which these facilities were put, as did some former employees of the Bureau of Narcotics. Some of the surviving CIA records contain very strong implications that the Agency paid for the safehouses for the purpose of providing facilities where drugs could be used on unwitting individuals in a manner simulating interrogation situations that might be encountered in the field. Granting, as you so astutely perceive, that many of the records were prospective - describing plans and proposals rather than completed actions - there remains a nagging uncertainty and a concern that the full story is not known.

You have told us very candidly what you know about premises in San Francisco, and we appreciate that. I have no reason to believe that you might have any additional direct knowledge but one fact focused upon rather intently by the Congressional investigators was the question of why the Agency would continue to fund for so many years facilities put to such limited CIA use; why did CIA fund facilities for use by the

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Bureau of Narcotics? Why were they funded under a program designed to support behavior modification research? What did CIA get out of it? Neither the CIA nor the Bureau of Narcotics witnesses were able to give satisfactory answers to these questions. Of course, the question of what the Bureau of Narcotics used them for and what they got out of it was never asked and the possibility that the Bureau of Narcotics used them to administer drugs was never explored. I intend to explore it, if I can identify and find the right person to ask. Meanwhile, if you have any additional recollections that would help us find the answers to these questions, they would be very much appreciated. A couple of further questions occur. Why did CIA use safehouses for witting experimentation rather than rely upon work being done at institutions? Were subjects of these experiments all CIA employees? If not who were they and what was their motivation for participating? I realize, as you have said, that you were not in a position to have complete first hand knowledge of every use to which the safehouses may have been put, but your candid response to my earlier letter prompts me to ask these questions on the chance that you may have some peripheral recollection that would be helpful.

One final request. I would like your permission to send your letter in its entirety to Senator Kennedy and Senator Bayh, who chair the Senate committees most interested in this matter. Should you be at all reticent about that, may I ask your permission to quote freely from your letter in whatever final report we must send to the Senators. We both must realize, of course, that quoting the most significant parts of your letter may make the identity of the author readily apparent to anyone who is inclined to look further.

In addition, I would appreciate your describing any restrictions you feel should be put upon our use of any response you give to this letter. Specifically, I would like to know if you want your communications to remain confidential in relation to requests we may receive from outside the Agency for information on these subjects. We believe that information you furnish us may be protected from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information or Privacy Acts, but this is by no means certain. If you would prefer to discuss these matters orally, I would be pleased to call on you at a mutually convenient time.

My inclination is to pass up your kind offer to furnish the name and address of the little lady who came knocking on your door as you were bringing your letter to a close, and I hope you will resist any temptation to give my address to her.

Sincerely,

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